



Massachusetts

Interfaith Power & Light

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www.MIPandL.org

Promoting environmental justice and care of creation with the community of faith in Massachusetts

February 2006

NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 1

A Greener Faith –

Roger S. Gottlieb speaks on March 2

On March 2 from 7-8:30 p.m., **Roger S. Gottlieb** will speak at the United Congregational Church of Worcester (6 Institute Road). The forum is being sponsored by Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light.



Gottlieb is a Professor of Philosophy at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). He has written extensively on faith and the environment, including such books as *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, and Environment* and *A Spirituality of Resistance: Finding a Peaceful Heart and Protecting the Earth*. Professor Gottlieb's talk on March 2 will be based on his forthcoming book, ***A Greener Faith: Religious Environmentalism and Our Planet's Future***, which is due to be published April 29, 2006, by Oxford University Press.

Says Dr. Bob Edgar of the National Council of Churches, "Roger Gottlieb presents a comprehensive view of the nexus of religion and the environment. The specific stories of faith-based environmentalism provide a bright picture of the faith community's capacity for caring for God's creation. If we actively follow his lead, we will go a long way toward being more effective stewards of our fragile planet."

Professor Gottlieb's talk will be followed by a Q&A session, and an update from MIP&L on the "Clean Energy Campaign for the Community of Faith in Worcester" and beyond.

Registration is Free. Please help us prepare – if you plan to attend, please let us know. Please let us know your name, congregation, how we can reach you, and how many people are in your group. **Our contact information:** Lara Hoke; MIP&L; 6 Institute Road; Worcester, MA 01609. Voice/Fax: 508-795-1400. E-mail: lhoke@MIPandL.org. ■

Matching Grant for Donations to MIP&L

Thanks to a generous grant from the Interfaith Power & Light program of The Regeneration Project (www.theregenerationproject.org), your tax-deductible donation to MIP&L will be matched! For more information, contact us at 1-800-406-5374. Mail donations (made out to "Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light") to: Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light; 6 Institute Road; Worcester, MA 01609.

The Choice Is Yours:

Clean Energy Choice

You have the power of choice - which do you want?

Clean Energy



**A Healthy Environment
Environmental Justice
Care of Creation**

OR

Dirty Energy



**Toxic Pollution
Environmental Injustice
Degradation of Creation**

If you would like to choose clean energy, go to our website (www.MIPandL.org) and click on the "Clean Energy Choice" button. You can also go to www.CleanEnergyChoice.org to learn about the matching grant program – for every dollar you spend on clean electricity, there is a match of up to one dollar for your community and up to one dollar for low income communities in Massachusetts. This match is from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. **Truly, this is a win-win-win! It is, quite simply, the right thing to do.** ■

Now Is the Time to Plan for an Efficiency Upgrade for Installation

Many of us are struggling with the heating bills this winter, at our house of worship, at our home, and at our office. While building envelope upgrades (such as sealing, insulation, etc.) can be done right now – during the winter – it is quite difficult to install a more efficient heating plant during the winter. **This summer will be the time to install a new, more efficient heating plant. And now is the time to plan for heating plant upgrades for installation this summer** (and domestic hot water too).

Don't wait for a system failure to call in the professionals. If you do, you will be rushed and not in a position to pick the best system or to get the best price. For MIP&L member congregations that have had an energy audit, review your written



Left: Old, “dead” boiler at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Boston. Right: Their new, highly efficient “Munchkin” boilers.

Environmental Stewardship Assessment to get yourself started.

If your gas company hasn't been invited to do the Detailed Audit and Financial Offer, get it scheduled.

You might want to go to our website (www.MIPandL.org) and look at the case studies for Trinity Canton for an idea of cost/savings, and All Saints Brookline for an idea of overall impact. Once at the website, on the left you will see “Success Stories” (with a blue background). Below that is a link that says “All Saints Parish” and “Trinity Church.”

It is also important to track your congregation's utility usage. There is an Excel spreadsheet for this purpose that you can download from our website. Go to www.MIPandL.org. On the left, you will see “Success Stories” (with a blue background). Below that is a link that says “Congregation Energy Use and Efficiency”. Click on that, and scroll down to the bottom of this page to download the tracking spreadsheet. Stewardship is what we do, so we need to track usage. Good stewardship keeps the cost down – not only for your gas, oil, electric or water/sewer bills, but also and especially for the secondary consequences of your actions on the health and well-being of the world.

Good planning and lead time means efficiency, cost savings and less agony in the process. It's like the old TV commercial: ‘You can pay me now or you can pay me later!’ It's crucial to be ahead of the game. With heating and cooling, timely preparation and good planning is the essence of environmental stewardship.

If you're not sure *what* to do, that's why we're at the end of the phone (800-406-5374) and Internet (lhoke@MIPandL.org). ■

This newsletter was prepared by in the course of performing work funded in part by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative as part of the Renewable Energy Trust.

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